

## MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate shall now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Chair recognizes for the last time the senior Senator from Colorado.

## FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank the Chair, the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island. I thank my great friend the majority leader, Senator REID, for his inspiration and for his leadership of this body and his love for this Nation. I think our journey together in many ways has been a similar journey because if you think about a man from Searchlight, NV, raised in the house where he was raised, raised in the circumstances in which he was raised, working in the mines and being essentially part of the poorest part of Nevada, and yet today he is serving in the Senate as majority leader, that is a pathway that illustrates the opportunity and promise of America.

For his support and his leadership, I will be forever grateful, and for the support from his family, Landra and Rory and all of his children as well. I admire him and admire them. I appreciate the comments that were so heartfelt from him, and I appreciate the comments as well from Senator MCCONNELL.

I thank my colleagues who are here this morning. I know almost everybody took off last night, so the Chamber is not exactly full this morning, but I see both Democrats and Republicans who came to hear me say the last few words I will say from this desk in the U.S. Senate.

Let me start out first by giving tribute to my family. My wonderful wife Hope, and my daughter Melinda, who is at Stanford, my daughter Andrea and my granddaughter who are in Denver today watching us on the Senate floor, they truly are the bedrock of my life. Without them I would not be here, and without them I would not have traveled the 64 counties of my great State of Colorado probably 20 times in the last 10 years because they were always there at my side since they were little, holding up balloons and walking parades and doing all the rest of the things it takes to become part of an elected office in such a large geographic area of Colorado. So today I say thank you, and I love you all very much.

I wish to pay tribute as well to my father Henry. As Senator REID described his history, it is a very true history. He was born into poverty and lived through a lot of sacrifice but always remembered the two most important things in his life, as my brother Congressman SALAZAR often says: No. 1, family; and No. 2, love for country. I think those two values guided him to

achieve what he still at the end of his life considered to be his greatest success, and that is that all eight of his children—all eight of his children—became first generation college graduates. So of my father Henry who taught me so many things about life, I will always be forever proud.

Within his family, as well as within my mother's family, if you look at the genealogy, which I will insert for the RECORD, we started back with Juan de Salazar who was born in 1520 and Juan de Salazar born in 1555, who became one of the original founders of the City of Sante Fe—the City of Holy Faith—NM, and then Jose Bernardo de Salazar. It goes on to the point where I am a 12th generation son of the southwest of New Mexico and Colorado. It is a history I am very proud of. It is a history that I hope is not forgotten. It is a history that for a long time was essentially shoved beneath the dust and was not given the illumination of its reality. I hope in some small part my role here in the Senate has been to give credence as well as to celebrate that history that makes us such a wonderful and diverse America. So I appreciate everything I received from my father's side. Yes, he was a proud soldier in World War II. He was a tough master as we grew up. He made us understand the importance of hard work. He had a strong sense of pride, a strong sense of community and giving back, and a strong sense of love for his family.

My mother Emma likewise in so many ways was a strong spiritual person whom I still today call Saint Emma. I call her Saint Emma because nothing can even shake her from her roots. She is who she is. She has a great faith. She is not afraid to live or die. I remember many times in my life, including the death of my oldest brother Leandro, my mother was the one who held the family together after a tragic accident on our ranch back in 1992. To her selfless—completely selfless—love which she has taught the world and has taught my family, I thank her from the bottom of my heart.

I often have asked my mother: Is there a single person in the world you do not like, or is there a single person in the world you hate? My mother will think about it for a minute, and she will say no. She says: I love everybody. Just as she loves everybody, everybody loves her. So I thank her for her faith and all that she has taught us.

To my brothers and sisters—there are seven of us still left. My oldest brother Leandro, who passed away, taught us a lot about history and about the culture of our community. I remember his days working with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers and then coming back to the ranch and farming and working with us for so long. He is and always will be my hero. I miss him.

To all the rest of my brothers and to my sisters, they have all been the bedrock also of my successes. Today, here

on the floor of the Senate, as I give my farewell address, I have the honor of being joined by Congressman JOHN SALAZAR, who is a Congressman for the Third Congressional District which covers about 65 percent of the State of Colorado. Congressman SALAZAR, in his own way, is a personification of many things that my family stands for. If you look at his history and his profile, he is a farmer, he is a soldier and veteran, he is a businessman. He knows issues such as water. He knows and has taught me so much. As he and I have grown up together, being here in Washington with him has been one of the highlights of my entire life.

I wish to also thank all of my colleagues here, and I will say just a few specific words about them in a few minutes.

In early February, the Senate selects a Member to perform its oldest non-legislative tradition, the reader of George Washington's Farewell Address on the floor of the Senate. In 2006, Senator HARRY REID, the majority leader, gave me the honor of doing that reading. I think Washington's famous words are important for us to remember at this time of transformation in America. In his farewell to public life in 1796, Washington warned us of the dangers of partisanship, of geographic sectionalism, and the politics of division. Washington said:

We are one Nation. With slight shades of differences you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

Washington's Farewell Address is a message to be reborn today. In this moment, in this time, with the inauguration next Tuesday, with this body in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, there is a new hope, with a growing sense that we are all in this together, and we are again becoming the one Nation the first President of the United States of America imagined.

Our next President, Barack Obama, embodies this historic change. He is asking us not to think of ourselves first as red States and blue States but as Americans first, with obligations of service to one another. We can solve our problems, no matter how difficult they are. We can reach the horizon of human possibilities no matter how difficult it might seem, but in order to do that, we must all work together. It is in this spirit of collaboration—of Nation before party, of compromise, of results-driven government—that Americans believe we can get it done this time.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all of you in this Chamber who have guided me in our work over the last several years. I wish to comment specifically just on four or five areas I am very proud of that we have worked on together in the Senate.